United Nations E/ICEF/1998/P/L.26

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
30 June 1998

Original: English

United Nations Children's Fund *For action*
Executive Board
Second regular session 1998
8-11 September 1998
Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

Recommendation for additional resources to fund the approved country programme**

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Summary

The present document contains recommendation for additional general resources to fund the approved country programme for the Democratic Republic of the Congo for which the balance of approved general resources is not sufficient to fund the programme up to the end of the approved programme period. The Executive Director *recommends* that the Executive Board approve additional general resources in the amount of $2,502,000 for 1998-1999 to achieve the objectives of the country programme as originally approved by the Executive Board.

* E/ICEF/1998/12.

** The figures provided in the present document are final and take into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 1997. They will be contained in the "Summary of 1998 recommendations for general resources and supplementary funding programmes" (E/ICEF/1998/P/L.21).

1. The current country programme for the Democratic Republic of Congo, covering the period 1998-1999, was approved by the Executive Board in 1997, with an allocation of $16,144,000 from general resources and $12,000,000 in supplementary funds (E/ICEF/1997/P/L.21). At that time, the annual general resources planning level for the Democratic Republic of Congo, calculated under criteria approved by the Executive Board (child population, gross national product (GNP) per capita and under-five mortality rate (U5MR)), was $8,072,000 per year.

2. Since then, based on the country's U5MR and GNP per capita, the planning levels of the country programme were increased to $8,879,000 for 1998 and $9,767,000 for 1999. As a result, an additional $2,502,000 is required to achieve the objectives of the country programme as approved by the Executive Board. A country programme recommendation for the period 2000-2002 will be submitted to the Executive Board in 1999. It will be synchronized with the Government's national triennial development plan and harmonized with the planning cycles of the agencies that are members of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy.

3. The country programme approved in 1997 continues to focus on primary health care, basic education, protection of children and women and the development of social policies. The additional general resources will be used to expand these activities, which already have seen success in a number of areas. The programme is synchronized with emergency interventions under the inter-agency humanitarian programme for countries of the Great Lakes region and Central Africa.

4. Based on the success of local immunization days in 47 cities in 1997, which had remarkable results in increasing immunization coverage for polio, further national immunization days are planned for 1998. Access to routine immunization services has increased considerably through the delivery of equipment, support to strengthening national capacities for microplanning, supervision and monitoring, and social mobilization. A model developed for a community-based, minimum package of quality health care at the primary level and for essential, quality obstetric care at the first referral level, has been launched successfully in five health service areas in three provinces.

5. The education programme is progressing as planned. Some 125 schools in eight of the eleven provinces have been revitalized and 2,000 teachers have been trained. A national strategy for "education for life" has been defined and experimentation is currently underway.

6. The social reinsertion of demobilized child soldiers has been initiated in two locations in the country and advocacy being done for the programme to reach all child soldiers nationally. Services for children in need of special protection have been reinforced, in partnership with the Government and non-governmental organizations.

7. Advocacy activities, including seminars and workshops, are focused on influencing the drafting and approval of the new Constitution so that it will reflect the relevant clauses of the Convention of the Rights of the Child and of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The country has submitted its first report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Additional funding requirements

(In United States dollars)

Current programme cycle	*Approved general resources funding*	*Additional funding proposed*
1998-1999	16 144 000	2 502 000